

THE

# HISTORIAN

www.hancockcountyhistoricalsociety.com

OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

October 2010

## COMING EVENTS AT LOBRANO HOUSE

"During the whole of a dull, dark, and soundless day in the autumn of the year, when the clouds hung oppressively low in the heavens, I had been passing alone, on horseback, through a singularly dreary tract of country; and at length found myself, as the shades of evening drew on, within view of the melancholy House of Usher." So begins Edgar Allan Poe's "The Fall of the House of Usher." There is no House of Usher here, but the 17th Annual Cemetery Tour will be held on Sunday, October 31, 2010, at Cedar Rest Cemetery in the 200 block of South Second Street in Bay Saint Louis, MS. The fun begins at 5:30 P.M. and runs until 8:00 P. M.

Everyone is invited to assemble at the main entrance to the cemetery for an exciting, informative historical tour. Guides will lead visitors through the cemetery to meet the spirits of local citizens buried there who will recount interesting events of the citizens' lives. Admission to the tour is free, but donations are accepted and used to maintain the gravesites and headstones in the cemetery.

After the tour everyone is invited to the Lobrano House around the corner at 108 Cue St. for punch, cookies, and other treats.

As is our usual custom, we will not have a luncheon this month so that we can devote all of our energies to the Cemetery Tour.



A house in Pearlington similar to the one in "The Visitor"

## The Visitor

By  
Marcie Cuevas Turnbough

The town of Pearlington, MS, is located on the Pearl River at the Mississippi-Louisiana state line. This small, historic town with its beautiful, large majestic oaks has been a place of legends and folklore throughout the years. As a child growing up in Pearlington, I heard many stories of the area. One of the stories I recall is one of a home built in 1800. It was a large old home located in the area of town called "the gin." This area is still called by that name today. It once boasted one of the largest cotton gins

along the coast. The large gin located here would process Sea Island cotton grown by surrounding plantations.

Though many years have passed since I originally heard this story, I can still picture the scenes of that night in a most vivid way. This was a beautiful home located among the many trees and flowering gardens planted on the property. It must have surely been an awesome sight to behold. The home was the pride of a successful businessman. It was a large two-story mansion, complete with white columns that ran across the front of the home and welcomed you to the large gallery.

Although the man enjoyed his wealth, his work often kept



THE

**HISTORIAN**

OF HANCOCK COUNTY

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Pat Fuchs, PublisherPublished monthly by the  
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Marianne Pluim, Webmaster**LOBRANO HOUSE  
HOURS**MONDAY — FRIDAY  
10:00AM — 3:00PM  
Closed: 12:00—1:00 (lunch)**MISSION STATEMENT**

"TO PRESERVE THE GENERAL AND ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY OF HANCOCK COUNTY AND TO PRESERVE THE KATE LOBRANO HOUSE AND COLLECTIONS THEREIN; TO RESEARCH AND INTERPRET LIFE IN HANCOCK COUNTY; AND TO ENCOURAGE AN APPRECIATION OF AND INTEREST IN HISTORICAL PRESERVATION."

him away for long periods of time. He hated having to leave his wife alone since they had no children. She was a beautiful woman with long, flowing brown hair and bright hazel eyes.

On one particular trip, after many days of travel, the man decided to return early and surprise his wife. He doted over his beautiful wife and was pleased to bring her a special gift from each of his journeys. That night, as he arrived home and travelled up the long driveway, he noticed a light in the parlor window. This was unusual as he was the only one who used this room. He continued up the brick stairs that led to the beautiful mahogany door of his beloved home.

He entered the house and started in the direction of the parlor. As he looked through the doorway, he observed a man seated in his favorite chair. Before the man could speak, he heard his wife call out to the male visitor. He knew by her tone and the words she spoke that this was no ordinary visitor.

Filled with rage, he walked to an adjacent room and picked up his hunting rifle. He carefully loaded the rifle and calmly walked back to the parlor. As he lifted the rifle, his wife, now sitting on the visitor's lap, began to cry out in fear. She quickly jumped up and ran across the room. Her husband was not moved by her tears. He fired the rifle, striking the visitor in the head. The visitor fell forward and lay dead on the floor as a result of the mortal wound.

A puddle of blood quickly formed around his head as the couple stood above him and argued. The woman, in fear of her own life, ran out of the house toward the lush gardens in the direction of the bayou. She was never to be heard from again, or so her husband said.

After the removal of the visitor's body, the owner had a maid clean up the large puddle of blood left behind. Several days later, however, the blood stain reappeared. The floors were stripped and refinished, and a rug was placed over the spot where the visitor had died. When the rug was removed sometime later, the blood stain was once again visible. It appeared exactly as it had looked the night the visitor had been killed.

The home changed owners several times over the years. The floor was refinished, and the home was remodeled to match the changing styles. Regardless of the changes in the other parts of the home, the blood stain would once again appear on the floor in the corner of the parlor.

New owners, not knowing the history of their home, would inquire as to what had made the reddish-brown stain that seemed to appear out of nowhere. They were always shocked to hear what had taken place in the house so many years earlier. Some owners even reported driving up to the house at night and finding the light on in the parlor. This was surprising, considering they would recall having turned off the light prior to leaving.



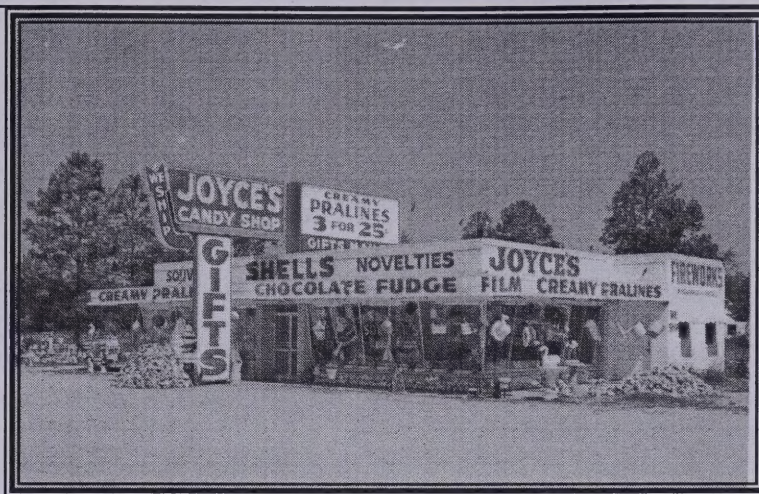
And what of the missing wife you may ask? There has been much speculation through the years as to her disappearance. Many owners have reported seeing a woman running away from the house toward the large gardens and bayou. Having long, flowing brown hair and wearing a long white dress, she fit the description of the original owner's wife perfectly.

(Editor's note: Back in the spring of this year, a very pleasant young woman, Marcie Cuevas Turnbough, came with her friend to the Lo-brano House to do some family research. Quite gregarious, they chatted about one thing and another including ghost stories of the area. Ms. Turnbough remarked that she had heard one all of her life about Pearlington. Overhearing the discussion, I asked her to write it for the *Historian*. The preceding tale is that story.)

## Did You Know This about Hancock County?

By  
Scott Bagley

Did you know that a portion of Highway 90 in Hancock County used to be known as the



Joyce's  
Candy  
Shop on  
Highway  
90

"Praline Capital of the World"? With its final transition from a two to four-lane thoroughfare crossing Hancock County in 1958, Highway 90 no longer ran directly through the town of Bay St. Louis but along what was then its "outskirts" where it runs today. Many praline makers and various gift shop owners who had established shops several years earlier on the Old Spanish Trail, by economic necessity, were forced to relocate on the new highway.

It turns out most of the shop owners liked the new location as it provided more sales and advertising space. Within a year, there were fourteen road-

side praline stands located along about a mile on Highway 90. According to these praline makers and sellers, there were more little family praline factories in that one stretch of highway than anywhere else in the world.

The praline, the so-called "Candy of the Creoles," had its origin in France nearly two centuries earlier. It was brought to the United States by nobility fleeing the country. The name supposedly is taken from the name of the French Grand Marshal, Caesar Plessis-Preslin, a well-known gourmet who was always creating a special dish for the extravagant French court. Accordingly, when members of the French nobility came to New Orleans, they brought with them their liking for the "Prasline," substituting, however, pecans for the almonds of the French recipe. During the more than two centuries since their introduction to this country, the name "Praslin" was often slurred and eventually became the praline name we know today.

Regretfully, the "Praline Capital" exists now only in memories. The pralines themselves, however, are still very



Kenny's  
Pralines  
on  
Ulman Ave.



much a part of the flavor of the area.

#### SOURCES:

*Hancock County Eagle Centennial Edition*, Aug. 1958. Bay St. Louis, MS.

Scharff, Robert G. *Louisiana's Loss, Mississippi's Gain*. Lawrenceville, VA: Brunswick Publishing Co., 1999.

### Election Time Is Here.

Election of members to serve on the Board of Directors of the Hancock County Historical Society for the 2011—2012 term will be conducted at the November general meeting and luncheon. The installation will be at the December meeting.

The positions to be filled this year are first vice president, secretary, treasurer, and member at large.

The election of the remaining four board positions is conducted on alternate years; that election will be in 2012. The offices then will be president, second vice president, publicity, and historian.

The bylaws of the corporation direct that members of the Board of Directors shall serve a period of two years and may not succeed themselves in the same position until a period of two years shall have passed following the end of their term in office.

### Help Wanted

We need volunteers to help set up the cemetery for the Cemetery Tour and to act as guides. If you can volunteer, please call the Historical society at 228-461-4090.

### Basque Lecture

Since the days of Antoine de Crozat and his "Compagnie de la Louisiane" of 1712, there has hardly been a day without a Basque (Europe's most ancient race or nationality) of great importance residing on the Mississippi Gulf Coast; however, they have been hidden. Until now, they have been hidden inside the words *Cajuns*,

*Creoles, French, and Spanish!*

Michel Antoine Goitia-Nicolas of New Orleans, president of the Louisiana Basque Society and Cultural Organization, will present a lecture on the Basque connections to families on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The lecture will be held at the Hancock County Historical Society from 1:00 P. M. until 3:00 P. M. on Tuesday, October 19, 2010.

### JOIN THE FUN!

## ATTEND THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL CEMETERY TOUR, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31

5:30 P. M.—8:00 P. M.

### DUES

Beginning January 1, 2011, all dues whether family or individual memberships will be \$25.00 per year.





# 2nd Annual Historic Preservation Awards Reception

Presented by  
The City of Bay St. Louis Historic Preservation Commission

**Wednesday, November 10, 2010 - 6 pm**

398 Blaize Ave  
Home of the Little Theater



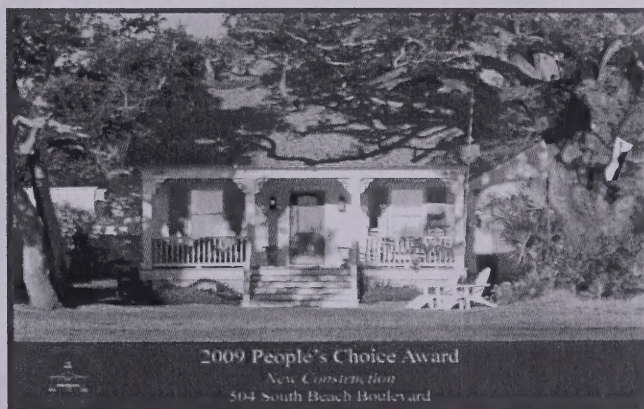
## 2009 Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony

More than 35 properties were recognized at the inaugural awards program generating excitement & enthusiasm from the community.

Awards for restoration and new construction projects for residential & public use categories were honored.

*Join Us As We Recognize  
the efforts of property owners who have gone  
above & beyond to restore and bring our his-  
toric district back to distinct significance.*

Visit your local merchants in  
Historic Bay St Louis to cast your  
ballot for this years Peoples  
Choice Award



2009 People's Choice Award  
New Construction  
504 South Beach Boulevard



**Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door**

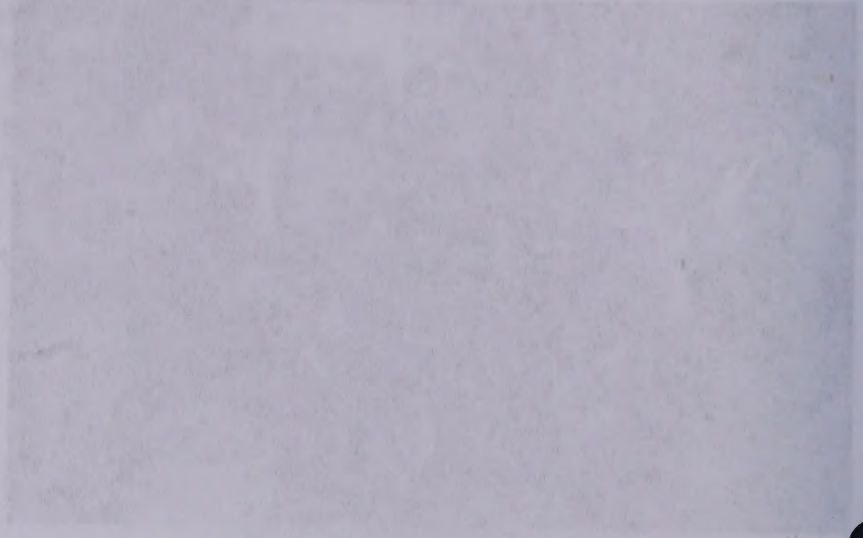
Tickets can be purchased at the following locations:  
Bay Books, 131 Main St; Maggie Mays, 130 Main St;  
Century Hall, 112 South Second St;  
Hancock County Chamber of Commerce, 412 Highway 90,  
City of Bay St Louis Conference Center, 598 Main St  
For more information call: **228.363.1358**



# Historic Preservation Awards Reception

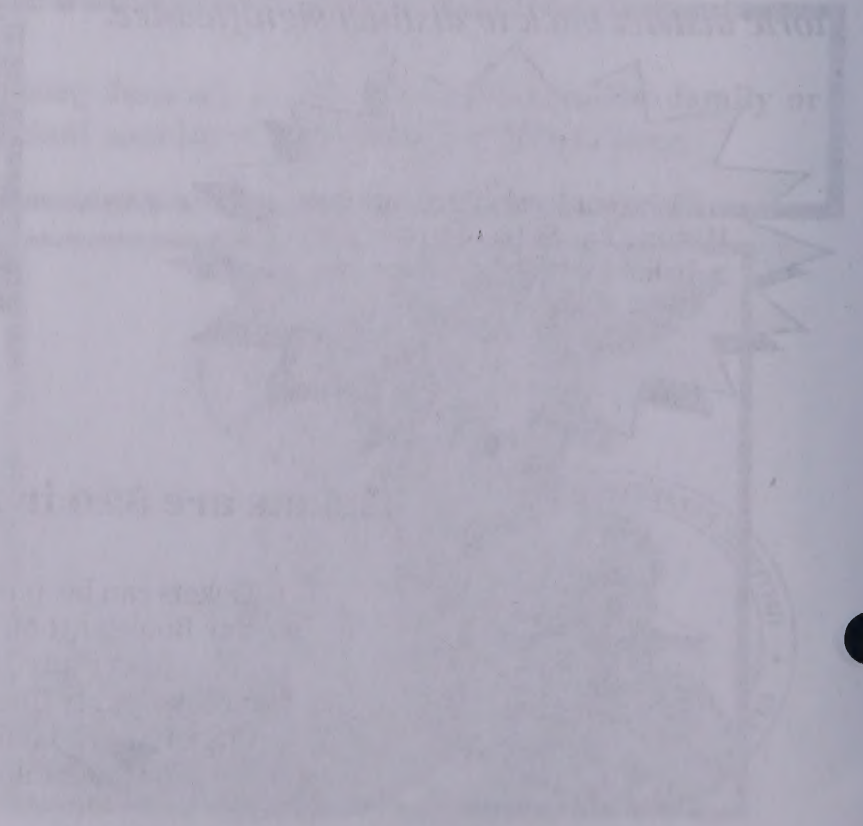
Wednesday, November 10, 2010 - 6 pm

Hotel of the City Center



Join us for the Reception

The efforts of our past are not what they were  
about 2 decades ago. The city of St. Louis has  
lost much of its historic architecture.



These are the winners and 2nd at the door

The winners were announced at the awards reception  
on Wednesday, November 10, 2010. The winners  
were: The City Center, The Gateway Center, and  
The Old Courthouse. The 2nd place winners were  
The Old Courthouse, The Gateway Center, and  
The City Center.



# *The Kate Lobrano House*

## **The Home of the Hancock County Historical Society**

108 Cue Street, Bay Saint Louis, MS 39520

The Kate Lobrano House was donated to the Hancock County Historical Society by Mrs. Kathrine Lobrano's grandchildren.

The parlor has been restored since Hurricane Katrina to an 1896 configuration and affords a refreshing moment from the busy life outside.

Guests are welcome weekdays from 10:00 A. M. to 3:00 P. M. to visit in the parlor or to research in the history and reference center.



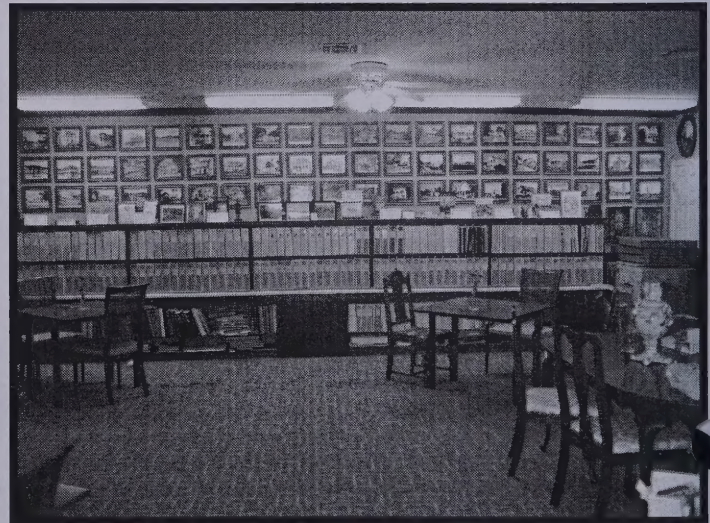
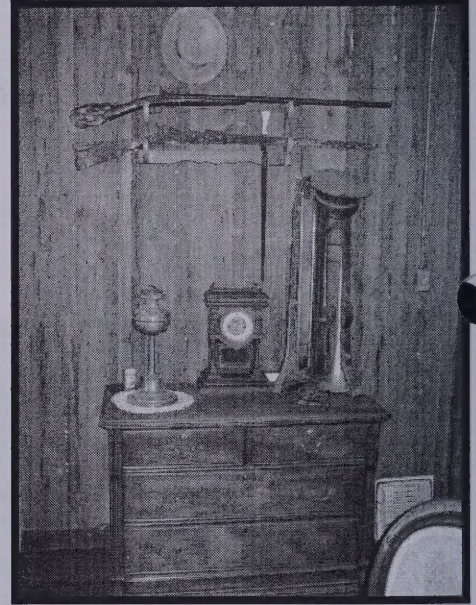
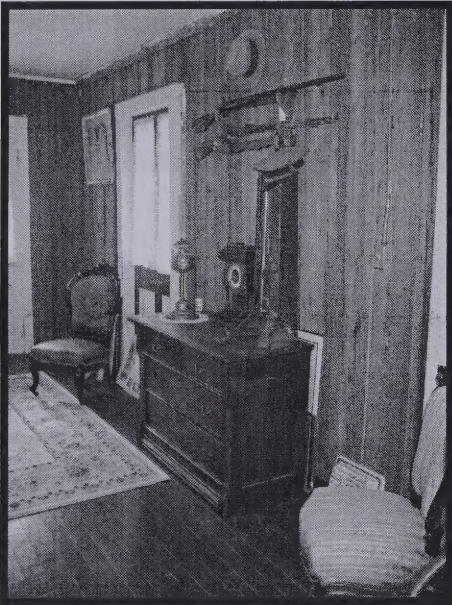
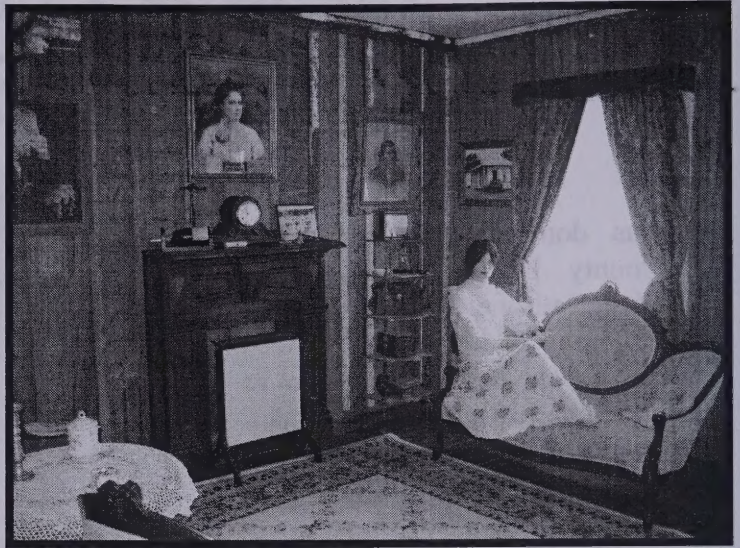
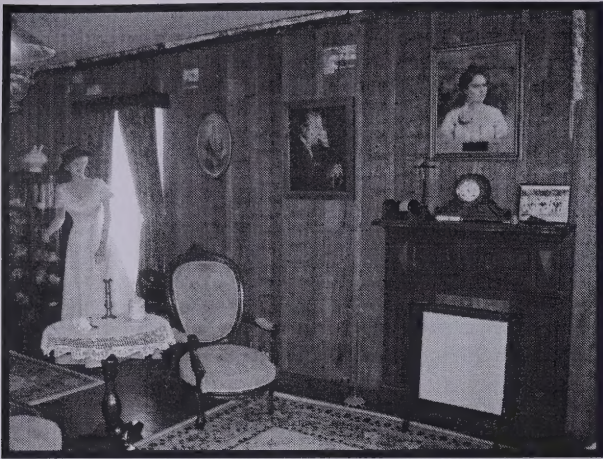
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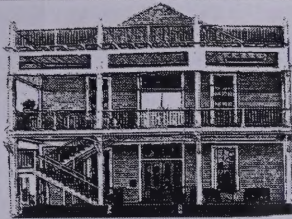




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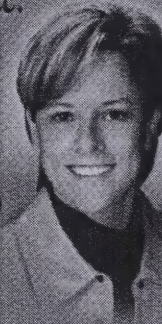
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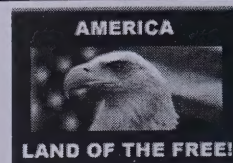




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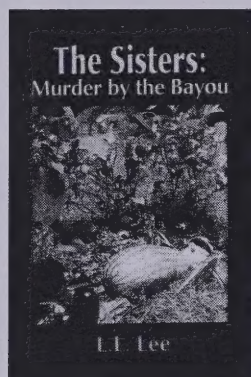
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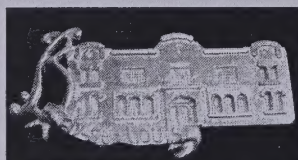


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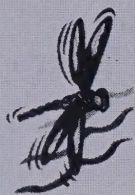
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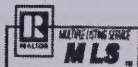


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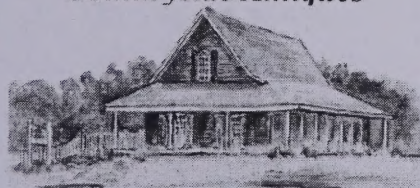
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